

Electric Safety

Electricity is one of the most important things we use every day. It keeps the lights on year-round and keeps the air conditioners and fans running throughout the summer, and does lots more.

But electricity is very dangerous and you must be careful around it. Just as electricity travels through cords and power lines, it can also travel through water and through our bodies. If you come into direct contact with electricity, you can be killed or very badly hurt.

Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe:

Inside:

- Space heaters are dangerous! Stay away from them, keep them away from furniture, curtains and rugs, and do not use them when sleeping.
- Never use an appliance, like your TV or video games, if the cord that goes to the wall looks cracked or broken.
- When you unplug an appliance, make sure you grab the plug and do not pull on the cord.
- If you touch an electric cord and it feels warm, ask an adult to check it right away.
- Do not put electric cords on top of furniture or under a rug.
- If an appliance falls in the water, do not try to get it out or unplug it. Ask an adult to turn off the power at the breaker before trying to remove it from the water.
- Never use an appliance in the bathtub, or one that is sitting on a wet counter.

- Don't use appliances or touch a light switch while your hands are wet.
- If an appliance smells hot or is buzzing, don't touch or unplug it. Ask an adult to turn off the power at the breaker first.

Outside:

- If you see a power line that's on the ground or broken, stay away from it! Either call 911 or ask an adult to call immediately!
- **Never touch a power line!** It can kill you. Workers from the electric company wear special clothing and need years of training before they can work with power lines. When they work with power lines, they follow very strict rules.
- If a power line falls on your family's car, stay inside. If you have to leave the car because of another danger, like a fire, JUMP out of the car so that you don't touch the ground and the car at the same time. Never touch a car with a power line on it.
- Don't climb trees that are near power lines.
- Don't fly kites, toy airplanes or balloons near power lines.
- Don't squirt a water gun toward or near a power line. Electricity can travel through the water and into your body.
- If it is lightning, go inside. Stay away from windows. If you can't get inside, stay away from rivers, lakes, swimming pools, metal objects, trees, and tall objects.



You and your parents can find more safety tips at www.IN.gov/OUCC.

